

## **Assembly Bill No. 1558**

### **CHAPTER 110**

An act to amend Section 831.8 of the Government Code, relating to liability.

[Approved by Governor July 13, 2012. Filed with  
Secretary of State July 13, 2012.]

#### **LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST**

AB 1558, Eng. Liability: flood control and water conservation facilities.

Existing law, until January 1, 2013, provides that neither a public agency that operates flood control and water conservation facilities nor its employees shall be liable for injuries caused by the condition or use of unlined flood control channels or adjacent groundwater recharge spreading grounds under prescribed conditions, except as specified, and specifies that nothing in that provision exonerates a public agency or public employee subject to that provision from liability for injury proximately caused by a dangerous condition of public property under specified circumstances.

This bill would extend the operation of those provisions indefinitely.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** Section 831.8 of the Government Code is amended to read:

831.8. (a) Subject to subdivisions (d) and (e), neither a public entity nor a public employee is liable under this chapter for an injury caused by the condition of a reservoir if at the time of the injury the person injured was using the property for any purpose other than that for which the public entity intended or permitted the property to be used.

(b) Subject to subdivisions (d) and (e), neither an irrigation district nor an employee thereof nor the state nor a state employee is liable under this chapter for an injury caused by the condition of canals, conduits, or drains used for the distribution of water if at the time of the injury the person injured was using the property for any purpose other than that for which the district or state intended it to be used.

(c) Subject to subdivisions (d) and (e), neither a public agency operating flood control and water conservation facilities nor its employees are liable under this chapter for an injury caused by the condition or use of unlined flood control channels or adjacent groundwater recharge spreading grounds if, at the time of the injury, the person injured was using the property for any purpose other than that for which the public entity intended it to be used, and, if all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The public agency operates and maintains dams, pipes, channels, and appurtenant facilities to provide flood control protection and water conservation for a county whose population exceeds nine million residents.

(2) The public agency operates facilities to recharge a groundwater basin system which is the primary water supply for more than one million residents.

(3) The groundwater supply is dependent on imported water recharge which must be conducted in accordance with court-imposed basin management restrictions.

(4) The basin recharge activities allow the conservation and storage of both local and imported water supplies when these waters are available.

(5) The public agency posts conspicuous signs warning of any increase in waterflow levels of an unlined flood control channel or any spreading ground receiving water.

(d) Nothing in this section exonerates a public entity or a public employee from liability for injury proximately caused by a dangerous condition of property if all of the following occur:

(1) The injured person was not guilty of a criminal offense under Article 1 (commencing with Section 552) of Chapter 12 of Title 13 of Part 1 of the Penal Code in entering on or using the property.

(2) The condition created a substantial and unreasonable risk of death or serious bodily harm when the property or adjacent property was used with due care in a manner in which it was reasonably foreseeable that it would be used.

(3) The dangerous character of the condition was not reasonably apparent to, and would not have been anticipated by, a mature, reasonable person using the property with due care.

(4) The public entity or the public employee had actual knowledge of the condition and knew or should have known of its dangerous character a sufficient time prior to the injury to have taken measures to protect against the condition.

(e) Nothing in this section exonerates a public entity or a public employee from liability for injury proximately caused by a dangerous condition of property if all of the following occur:

(1) The person injured was less than 12 years of age.

(2) The dangerous condition created a substantial and unreasonable risk of death or serious bodily harm to children under 12 years of age using the property or adjacent property with due care in a manner in which it was reasonably foreseeable that it would be used.

(3) The person injured, because of his or her immaturity, did not discover the condition or did not appreciate its dangerous character.

(4) The public entity or the public employee had actual knowledge of the condition and knew or should have known of its dangerous character a sufficient time prior to the injury to have taken measures to protect against the condition.

(f) Nothing in subdivision (c) exonerates a public agency or public employee subject to that subdivision from liability for injury proximately

caused by a dangerous condition of public property if all of the following occur:

- (1) The person injured was 16 years of age or younger.
- (2) The dangerous condition created a substantial and unreasonable risk of death or serious bodily harm to children 16 years of age or younger using the property or adjacent property with due care in a manner in which it was reasonably foreseeable that it would be used.
- (3) The person injured did not discover the condition or did not appreciate its dangerous character because of his or her immaturity.
- (4) The public entity or public employee had actual knowledge of the condition and knew or should have known of its dangerous character a sufficient time prior to the injury to have taken measures to protect against the condition.